PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 51 No. 14 July 10, 2019 suggested donation $1

SMASH ALL BORDERS

Mexico has deployed 15,000 soldiers and National Guardsmen to the U.S.-Mexico border. Immigrant workers, displaced by the misery and violence generated by capitalism, are caught in the raging battles between ruling-class factions across the globe.

Just as rivers of raw materials and goods flow from one end of the world to the other, so the workforce of millions of migrants flows. The communists of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) believe that the working class has no borders. In unity with the international working class, we are fighting back against racism, nationalism, and the bosses' brutal attacks on migrant workers.

Wretched conditions

Migrant workers and families have increasingly organized in caravans of thousands of people, including entire families, to try to reach the U.S. and cross illegally or request political asylum. They do this to protect themselves. Even under the harshest conditions, the working class organizes to defend itself.

As countless workers in Mexico and Central America attempt this journey to hell, they are faced with terrible choices. They can pay a *pollero* to smuggle them over the border. Or they can attempt it on their own and risk extortion by the police, army, criminal cartels, and the ICE police. Many women are raped or forced into sex or domestic work; other men and women are enslaved on farms.

The border crossers have found support from workers in Mexico, mainly women from the neighborhoods surrounding the trains, who have organized to give food and accommodations to their class. Dozens of these support stations have been set up along the route. These actions reflect the spirit of solidarity of the working class and show the potential of our class to build a communist society freed from the enslavement of the bosses.

To liberate ourselves, this ember of class unity must be fanned into the flame of class consciousness. It must become a mass communist movement to fight against the source of all exploitation and misery, the capitalist system.

Trump's gutter racism builds on Obama's legacy

Donald Trump's anti-immigrant administration, representing the isolationist Fortress America faction of domestically oriented U.S. bosses, uses open racism to mobilize its political base. It blames workers coming from Central America for the problems caused by capitalism. It has tightened measures to prevent workers crossing the U.S.-Mexican border from remaining in the U.S. while they wait months for their asylum hearings. Meanwhile, Trump has threatened Mexico with a trade war to force the Mexican ruling class to implement measures to stop or reduce the flow of workers from Central America (The Guardian, 6/20).

The U.S. Democratic Party liberal politicians, who represent the finance capital main wing of the U.S. ruling class, are using the suffering of the migrant workers for their own cynical purposes. They are mobilizing

Continued on page 2

★**EDITORIAL** *Rising fascism against immigrant workers..p 2*

★**BROOKLYN** *Black leadership key to revolution...p3*

★**CALIFORNIA** *Hotel workers fight sexist conditions...p4*

★**SPAIN** *Fascism and volatility grow ...p 5*

★**LETTERS** *Take the opportunity to expand your consciousness...p 7*

★**HISTORY** *Long live communist internationalism...p 8*

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: Challenge Desafio

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, July 10, 2019•Volume 51 No. 14

Editorial

Rising fascism against immigrant workers

anti-racist workers against the liberals' internal capitalist rivals, represented by Trump and the Republican Party. The liberal bosses, under growing pressure from the rising Chinese ruling class, hope that we'll forget that it was Barack Obama who authorized the building of the concentration camps at the border. It was the Big Fascist liberals who showed the Little Fascists, now running the White House and Senate, how to jail the children of the working class in the same prison camps once used to intern workers of Japanese descent during World War II. Just five years ago, "Oklahoma's Fort Sill was used as a detention facility for migrant children under President Barack Obama" (Newsweek, 6/13).

@PLPchallenge
Challenge Desafio

AMLO exposed as liberal danger

Likewise, the dominant finance capital bosses in Mexico are showing the horrors that liberals have in store for the working class—a danger even greater than the program of the likes of Trump. The government of Andres Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) is sending 6,000 soldiers from the recently created National Guard to the border with Guatemala to harass and arrest workers in the caravans. Transport companies will now demand official identification. The new attacks represent a move towards fascist control of the population. On June 14, in the state of Vera Cruz, a group of workers from El Salvador was fired on by Mexican police, who killed a 19-year-old woman (Washington Post, 6/19).

The military buildup at Mexico's southern border will only increase the attacks on migrant workers. It also exposes the true nature of the liberal faction of the Mexican ruling class. While López Obrador speaks of investment projects for southern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, to benefit the working class (The Hill 12/18/18), he is making clear to his capitalist masters that he will do whatever it takes to preserve the exploitative capitalist system. The capitalist bosses need AMLO to build a fascist state that terrorizes, jails, and kills migrant workers. If he wants to stay in power, he'll comply.

Ultimately, many of these terrorized workers will be forced into a low-wage labor force that the U.S. liberal imperialists and Mexican bosses will exploit together, a part of their decades-long plan to build an industrial and freight transport corridor between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Splits and rising fascism

In this period of internationally rising fascism, where a global war between the big imperialists looms on the horizon, the liberal bosses pose the greatest threat to our class as they desperately try to hold on to their power through intensified terror and violence. Parties like AMLO's MORENA in Mexico and the Democrats in the U.S. are the spearhead of a movement to take down their enemies in the ruling class—and then go after our class even more viciously, once they have consolidated their power and are moving toward bigger wars.

Regardless of which party may be in power, capitalism has consistently failed the workers of Mexico. "[O]ne out of four Mexican municipalities has living conditions similar to sub-Saharan Africa in terms of illiteracy, access to healthcare, and homes without toilets or solid floors (Business Insider 8/2/15). AMLO and Mexico's liberal bosses are banking on state terror to get workers to accept even worse conditions, lower salaries, and longer workdays. Their rival Mexican rulers, as in the U.S. and Europe, are small-time fascist bosses who mobilize poor workers to their side through open racism. Right-wing politicians and capitalists have already begun to attack the migrants and to question what little support the migrants receive from the government.

But if the bosses are counting on a passive working class, they're in for a surprise. Workers always fight back. The next step is to unite in the struggle for communist revolution. Communists fight to build a world without borders. Join us!✪

Shantel's 7-year anniversary

Black leadership key to revolution

BROOKLYN, JUNE 14 - "How do you spell RACIST? N-Y-P-D!!!" This uncompromising chant was shouted in defiance by a determined band of anti-racist fighters who rallied and blocked traffic in memory of Shantel Davis, murdered by killer kkkop 'Bad Boy' Phillip Atkins seven years ago today.

A blue-shirted 'community affairs' cop attempted to rush a solemn release of balloons in memory of Shantel and anger exploded among families, who had members killed by cops. The cops interference only served to prolong our occupation of the street. Carloads of plainclothes assassins like the one who shot Shantel swarmed the scene. No arrests were made, as the show of fascist strength was matched by the strength of multi-racial working class unity with communist politics in the lead.

Though Public Advocate Jumaane Williams (the #2 figure in New York City government under Mayor Bill de Blasio) was present, Shantel's sister asked a Progressive Labor Party member to give the opening speech. Jumaane has been in our protests from the start, but has delivered little. Here is the PLP speech:

Like so many other families who have survived racist cop murder, the one thing Shantel's sister wants is for no other family to have to suffer the loss she has faced. But this is the one thing that no elected official can promise. In fact, just nine months after Shantel was killed by Atkins, Kimani Gray, 16, was killed by cops working out of the same Flatbush precinct, the 67.

Atkins had a record of settlements against him well into six figures at the time he murdered Shantel. The city paid out damages because he had a track record of being brutal. But he was kept on the streets. In fact, the city knows who are their most brutal cops, because they pay out the money in damages when complaints are filed. Yet the ruling class keeps these cops on the force no matter who the mayor is. Elections do not change that. And so any leader who tells you that an election can give Shantel's sister, and all the other grieving families, a system where racist cop murder won't happen again is a liar and a misleader. In fact the youth rebellion that erupted after Kimani was killed, or the rebellion that just hit Memphis,over another police killing of

Continued on page 6

Latin working-class women attack liberal racism

CHICAGO, JUNE 24 – Working-class Latin immigrant mothers and their supporters continued their struggle against the racist Chicago Public Schools (CPS) today. In the face of tricks and obstacles, the mothers persisted on having a meeting with newly-appointed board president Miguel del Valle regarding the application of magnet status for their children's dual-language elementary school.

This struggle to re-designate the school as a magnet school is the latest in a long string of battles that these working-class parents have waged against the racist CPS for the district's attacks on their school and majority-Latin community. Comrades from Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have been involved in many of these fights and continue to advocate for communist revolution as the only way to guarantee the best education for workers and their children worldwide.

Don't back down

The meeting with del Valle today was set weeks ahead of time, confirmed through a series of emails exchanged with a PLP comrade and del Valle's secretary. When we arrived at the president's luxurious downtown office, however, the receptionist as well as a pair of CPS lackeys began to give us the runaround.

The lackeys first informed us that del Valle was not available, and that the plan was that on this day we would meet with other CPS representatives instead. After we showed these flunkies the email confirmations that we received that we had in fact scheduled the appointment with him specifically, the story changed into how his secretary had since sent cancellation emails to the comrade (which were unsurprisingly never found). It became obvious that CPS was really trying to get out of any obligation to meet with the mothers.

But we were not about to be moved. The mothers as well as the school principal were persistent and pushed back, continuing to show the emails until the CPS flunkies ushered us into a boardroom where del Valle and a handful of other executives magically appeared.

Capitalism fails the working class

Now that we had the CPS bosses' attention, we were able to pressure them for answers about the status of the application to convert Whittier Elementary into the only dual-language magnet school on the city's south side.

The school is situated in what is still a majority Latin immigrant working-class neighborhood but which is rapidly gentrifying. Whittier is operating at a little more than half of its enrollment capacity, as more working-class families are displaced by rising rent prices.

By converting the school into a magnet school, by the parents and staff hope to draw in more working-class students who can benefit from the dual Spanish-English program, increase enrollment, and fight off the threat of the school closing in the not-too-distant future.

The application was submitted back in October of 2018, and the parents have faced a lot of racist and sexist indifference from CPS. The application was quickly denied by the district, without explanation. What's more, the parents who have attended CPS board meetings to bring attention to the school have been made to wait for hours on end to speak. Practically all the mothers involved only speak Spanish, but were offered no translation services from CPS for one of these meetings in April in order to understand what was being discussed.

Today, the immigrant working-class mothers gave testimony on the strengths of the community-centered school and the benefits it has had for the students. One Latin mother, who was forced to move to another neighborhood to the southwest, spoke about how she still drives two of her children to attend Whittier each morning because of the positive impact it has had on their education and language skills.

The CPS bosses faked sincerity and promised to get back to us with updates and a decision in the upcoming weeks. Del Valle and Lori Lightfoot, the new mayor who appointed him, are painting themselves as progressives who are ready to defend education for working-class students. In fact, we need to see these liberals as the main danger to the working class.

Look back no further than past liberal mayor Rahm Emanuel, who championed progressive causes during his campaign and then closed fifty schools, the majority of which were in Black and Latin working-class neighborhoods. A number of his CPS appointees were charged with incompetence and corruption, including former CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett.

As long as capitalism treats education as a commodity and working-class students as criminals and future soldiers to be mobilized for war, we can expect more of the same. A communist education is the only one really worth fighting for, where education is not based on money or profits but is a collective, lifelong process grounded in the needs of our class.

Remember La Casita

As we were leaving the CPS office, a comrade told the bosses, "I'm not sure what your decision will be, but I've known these parents for many years, and I know that they're fighters. If you cross them, you'll have another La Casita on your hands."

The comrade was referring to the struggle over a community center at Whittier Elementary, which immigrant workers occupied for over a month in 2010 when CPS threatened to demolish it. The bosses eventually succeeded, but many immigrant workers and PLP comrades fought and learned much in the process.

It's those lessons and fighting spirit that we'll maintain during the struggles ahead, part of the broader struggle to overcome all the capitalist bosses' attacks by winning more workers to a communist future.✪

Hotel workers fight sexist conditions

SANTA MONICA, CA, JUNE 18– Nearly 100 hotel workers, community members, and clergy marched through the hotel district in Santa Monica, rallying in front of two hotels and City Hall. The focus of the struggle is to combat sexism in the workplace and improve conditions for the overworked, mostly female housekeeping staff. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members work in a church that is part of a coalition called Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, which is currently supporting the efforts of local hotel workers to unionize and improve working conditions.

Their most recent struggle has been focused on combating sexist conditions in the workplace, especially the sexual harassment and assault perpertrated by management and hotel guests. The workers and the union are pushing the City Council to pass an ordinance that would mandate that panic buttons be placed in all guest rooms; provide for humane workloads and job retention rights when hotel ownership changes; and begin necessary training for supervisors and staff on preventing human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, and labor abuse.

At the rallies, there were the usual talks from Council members, but the most inspiring speeches were from the workers themselves. The women talked about their experiences with sexism on the job and how they have stayed strong and kept fighting because of the support they've received from fellow workers and the community.Their

campaign started last fall with informational forums, where workers shared their stories. As nearby jurisdictions started passing panic button ordinances, the workers and the union began to craft their own housekeeper's bill of rights. Then they circulated a petition to gather community support. At our church, we've been gathering signatures after services and making announcements from the pulpit.

Santa Monica hotels are not alone in the sexist and racist mistreatment of their workers. In Los Angeles, workers are organizing a union at the trendy Freehand Hotel, owned by multimillionaire real estate developer Andrew Zobler. Workers have faced "speed-up" — the number of beds and bathrooms they must clean has doubled. As a result, they have no time for breaks or even quick water breaks.When they began to organize a union, management threatened to report them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement and made antigay remarks comments to some union delegates.

Since the owners of hotels and every other business want to maximize profits, they seek to cut labor costs whenever possible. How this affects the workers—damaging their health, and their family lives—is of no concern to the owners. We support the collective action of workers to improve their conditions and defeat racist and sexist treatment. We also bring to the struggle the understanding that capitalism will always use racism and sexism to oppress the working class and extract maximum profits, but that workers have the power to overthrow that system with a communist revolution that allows the international working class to run society for the benefit of all.✪

Brazil: It's not just Bolsonaro, it's capitalism

BRAZIL, JUNE 2019—In 206 cities, hundreds of thousands of students and teachers took to the streets in protests, outraged by President Jair Bolsonaro's announcement to cut 30 percent of funding to public universities and high schools. Racist and sexist Bolsonaro is now under attack and rightly so. But voting so-called leftists back into power is not the answer. It's not just Bolsonaro. It's the whole damn capitalist system. Various socialists or "leftists" today – from Bernie Sanders in the U.S. to Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva- just want to fix capitalism. That's not possible.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of workers are striking, demonstrating and fighting the cops, demanding no cuts to their pensions and other safety net programs. This is working class power. It should not be wasted on an effort to replace Bolsonaro with some socialist hack. Let this be a school for communist revolution. We need workers and students in Brazil to join the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and organize for an egalitarian society totally run by the working class. Bolsonaro won big because the fake leftist governments - led by the Worker's Party (PT) which was in power for twenty years - dished out a few crumbs to the working class and then screwed them royally.

By the time of his October 2018 election victory, Brazil was in the deepest recession in its history, corruption was rampant among politicians, and homicides were at record levels (nytimes.com, Oct 28, 2018). It was Lula and his fake "leftist" Workers Party– in power for almost 20 years– that put Brazil in this crisis.

The current cuts come on top of years of budget cuts by the previous governments led by the Workers Party. They are part of a policy of austerity measures aimed at shrinking government spending and privatizing the country's resources. They target the humanities and social sciences as part of Bolsonaro's far-right nationalist party's ideological attack on the "left", which he claims has turned the universities into "hotbeds of Marxist indoctrination" (Aljazeera).

Bolsonaro also aims to privatize 100 state-run companies in areas such as energy, ports, highways, and airports, a process that began over 20 years ago when the government began privatizing Petrobras, the state-owned oil company, and South America's largest. Now, under Bolsonaro, that plan is being intensified with a vengeance. Some capitalists aligned with Bolsonaro will control businesses that were previously controlled by capitalists aligned with Lula.

This is also a defeat for Chinese imperialists who have made huge investments in Brazil – and especially in Petrobas - while the Workers Party was in power. Bolsonaro's fascist program is a full-fledged attack on the working class. Since taking office, he has lowered the minimum wage, eliminated labor legislation protections, announced the dismantling of social security and the slashing of pension benefits, and attacked public education. He is promoting racism to divide and weaken the working class. He campaigned on the promise of seizing resource-rich indigenous lands that "are an obstacle to agri-business" (Campo Grande News, 4/22/15).

Bolsonaro promotes vicious racism against the indigenous tribes to divide the working class and justify this land grab.The massive demonstrations show students and workers acting in their own class interests. Now, they need to reject the socialism of the Workers Party, which has produced little for the working class. Join the PLP and transform this anti-government movement into an armed revolution for a classless society-- communism.

Workers and students in Brazil have seen firsthand, over the last 20 years, how socialist reforms within a capitalist economy fail the working class. Join the Progressive Labor Party and help us build a new international communist movement for real workers' power.✪

Fascism and volatility grows in Spain

SPAIN, JUNE 24—A small fascist party called Vox is taking hold here. The Vox party panders to the domestic-oriented bosses, along with the disaffected racist and sexist working-class people who make Vox's base. These little fascists are secondary to the main danger—liberal fascism.

The current division we see worldwide is between the main finance capital wing of the ruling class who are committed to imperialist interests and more domestically focused capitalists who don't want to pay the bill in higher taxes that it will take for a global war to maintain that control. Immigration is one of the fault lines of these divisions.

Gutter fascists grow out of crisis and splits

The crisis of capitalism has fostered the rise of fascist parties across the globe, as we're seeing from Spain to India. In Europe, many fascist parties have been gaining ground, playing on the disappointments and suffering of workers who have been subjected to unemployment and government cutbacks in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis that continues to widen. From Italy to Hungary to the UK and beyond, parties have used anti-immigrant racism, "anti-corruption" promises and anti-communist rhetoric. Their Klan-type racism fueled violence against immigrants fleeing inter-imperialist war in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and Yemen. The use of nationalism and racism against immigrants and Muslims, and antigay and antisexist ideas are consistent features of fascism across the globe.

In Spain, the fascist virus has reared its ugly head in the form of Vox (Latin for "voice"). Emerging in 2013 as a split from the traditional right-wing *Partitdo Popular* (People's Party). Vox openly supports Israeli fascism and advocates war against Iran. Vox's current boss, Santiago Abascal, launched the 2019 campaign in Covadonga, the site of the first victory of Christian Spain against Muslims who governed the Spanish peninsula for over 780 years. He is calling for "making Spain great again" via mass deportation of Muslim workers. Abascal also wants to build a long wall on Spain's southern border to stop migrants from Morocco and other parts of Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa who are fleeing war and environmental catastrophe. Vox unabashedly evokes the legacy of Franco, the Spanish dictator who ruled for over 40 years, and longs for a return to authoritarian rule under the banner of Spanish ultra-nationalism.

Vox is part of a broader fascist movement that has been building in Europe and worldwide. Steve Bannon, ex-strategist of the Donald Trump administration, founded an organization called "The Movement" to promote nationalist groups in Europe. Parties under this banner include the Belgian People's Party, Italy's Northern League, France's National Front, Alternative for Germany, the Danish People's Party and The Freedom Party of Austria.

What goes unmentioned in liberal analyses of Vox is that it's the conditions caused by capitalism that provide the fertile ground upon which fascist parties can grow. These groups are a political response of one section of the capitalist class to the circumstances and obstacles of capitalism in crisis. This section of the ruling class is unwilling to make sacrifices for global imperialism. They are in conflict with the finance wing, which has been on the defensive from Europe to Asia to Latin America. The volatility of the capitalist world order is rapidly increasing.

Who will lead the fight?

We would be misleading ourselves if we think a movement absent of communist politics can steer a fight against fascism. Since December of 2018, the southern region of Andalucía has seen militant protests opposing attacks on immigrants and Vox. In cities like Granada, Sevilla, and Málaga, these groups have shut down streets and occupied central areas of the city with shouts of "We are not afraid" and "It's fascism, not democracy," and "Refugees welcome." The main liberal wings of the bosses seek to control and steer this movement. What we need to keep in mind is that all liberal politicians are loyal servants of the main wing of their ruling class. Their job is to mislead and pacify angry workers, and to keep them on the dead-end road of capitalist electoral politics.

Just as it was in the period before World War II, the answer to a fascist international is a communist international, which makes the struggle against anti-immigrant racism, nationalism, and other oppressive and divisive ideas the key to building the unity necessary to defeat rising fascism. However, the old movement made a grave mistake in forming a united front against fascism—essentially failing to separate itself from the liberal bosses. PLP is trying to build a communist international movement that is independent from all bosses' camps.

The capitalist bosses will always demonstrate significant tactical and strategic differences. However, they are united in the fundamental principle of attacking the working class at all costs and will achieve that through increased exploitation as well as racist and sexist attacks. However, it is our duty to continue to expose the liberals as the main threat to the international working class for their role in ensuring the survival of the profit system.✪

Bosses' future: Jail! Workers fight wage theft

BROOKLYN, JUNE 6 – "Pay back the money you owe!" "Whose streets? Our streets!" Chants in Spanish and English filled the air as more than 30 workers from a community immigrant organization confronted a wage-stealing boss this week: a small-time capitalist who makes his fortune ripping other workers off by exploiting their unscientific belief in Tarot Cards. It was a militant protest that reflects years of Progressive Labor Party efforts to organize fightback among immigrant workers!

The workers carefully planned this protest in the days before, bringing signs made by young workers drawn with Tarot hands and crystal balls, with messages like "Thief Tarot Reading", and "Your Future: Jail", both in English and Spanish. This petty boss, filled with rage, screamed and called the cops on the workers! While the protestors entered the store with chants demanding the stolen wage money, the petty boss yelled and tried intimidating the workers to leave his store. After kicking them out of the store he also demanded they leave the sidewalk, because according to him, it was private property.

There was a great feedback from the passersby of the neighborhood, who not only took our leaflets describing why we were there, but also had discussions with us asking what was going on and even stayed at the rally to simply watch the action with surprise and admiration.

A petty boss and a gutter racist

Towards the end of the rally, the petty boss was just so furious at the bravery and actions of the workers that he began to say even more disgusting racist insults and at one point he even said how he was so happy what Trump has been doing to Latin workers with mass deportations.

At that point a young comrade of the party, who was one of the leaders of this action, lost his control and began to curse out the petty boss and even reminded the petty racist boss that he was also an immigrant. A few other protestors also joined in the match of insults, but eventually we had to retreat when the cops came.

The petty boss even lied to the police that the protestors had wrecked his store, but there was no evidence of that, and our lawyer told the police that not only was that a lie, but that the community organization is a peaceful entity and that we were within our rights and were not breaking the law in any way. After the rally, all of the protestors went to have pizza and soda for dinner to cool off after this intense event.

Building for struggle and revolution

Planning for this demonstration began at a weekly meeting of a liberal community organization two days before, where members of the communist Progressive Labor Party have been working for many years. Over the past year, workers and PL members have demanded side by side to the leaders of this community organization to support direct actions and confront wage-stealing bosses, as it was done in the past for workers who came to the organization asking for help against wage theft.

The community organization has recently transitioned to younger leadership, who have restarted this campaign of direct action and have even allowed one of our young comrade leaders of PLP to take more charge of this campaign, while under the liberal community organization's direction. This week, the workers scored a victory: the organization's leadership would support direct action to confront the thieving bosses!

Following the meeting, a dedicated workshop took place where the members of the organization brainstormed on how to proceed, including making signs. The petty boss had already been disrespectful to the lawyers of the organization when requests were made on the phone. At the end of the workshop, it was decided that the lawyers of the community organization, along with 30 members, would go to the work site with a letter of demands followed by the protest.

Criticism, self-criticism, and the science of struggle

At the next weekly meeting of the community organization, the protest was evaluated and analyzed by the workers. While the workers supported the action, some of the leaders of the organization weren't too happy about the screaming insults that had been exchanged with the petty boss. According to their reasoning, they fear the possible arrests of our mainly undocumented members.

Then the young comrade of the party took the stand and spoke at the meeting and made a self-criticism. He indicated to the workers that he was not going to just stand there while the petty boss made these horrible racist remarks and wasn't going to tolerate the bosses attempt to intimidate the workers. Even though the young comrade apologized about possibly putting our undocumented sisters and brothers in danger, he also took full responsibility if he got arrested, since he himself is documented and fully aware of his rights. He felt he was within his right to yell at the boss as long as he didn't touch him.

The young comrade also took this opportunity to compare and criticize the liberal mass organization's many previous staged arrests that are planned ahead of time, as opposed to unplanned spontaneous arrests, which are considered real fight backs. We must continue to lift the class consciousness of the workers in the fight back against the bosses, including making direct actions and confrontations against the exploiters. When the time comes, the working class will be ready to take control of the means of production with communist revolution!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Take the opportunity to expand your consciousness

A close friend, whose thinking I admired, introduced me to a PLP study group. Drawn like a moth to a flame, I found a way to gain knowledge from many perspectives. As the elders gave history and insight on the topics at hand (racism and housing), the young were able to connect the dots and relate it to modern times.

As the ideas of Karl Marx filled the room, time stood still. The history behind the issues of racism and housing allowed me to understand how unjust it is to live in a capitalist system. How do we continue to survive when the capitalist system is designed for the working class to fail? A communist revolution is the answer. I couldn't help but think of all the people of the world's past who made a choice to stand up for change. To think I was slowly but surely developing the desire to become one of them.

If you are ever invited to a study group, take the opportunity to expand your consciousness. You are never too young to gain new perspectives, ideology, and knowledge. A communist revolution is the path to a bright future. When the working class unites, battles are won.

★★★★★

Tanzania: politicians kill children for good luck

Capitalism is an evil political system because it is able to spread falsehoods and lies throughout the world to justify its accumulation of wealth. PLP members in East Africa have been discussing a terrible series of events that occurred this past January. As local elections were being held in Njombe, Tanzania, television news reported that eight children had been killed. The news stated that politicians inside the ruling party, CCM (Chama Cha Mapinduzi; in English, Party of the Revolution), killed the children to extract body parts.

It is local superstition that the body parts of humans, especially albinos, are imbued with special powers, and that witchcraft can help people get what they desire, in this case winning the election. The CCM politicians are also accused of kidnapping other children and demanding ransom in exchange. Groups of parents went to the police stations demanding that the government go after these politicians, but the government has done nothing to stop this horrible practice.

The old way of thinking only serves the ruling class because it strips away human dignity from certain groups of the working class. The only way forward is to build working-class consciousness for a communist revolution. The minds of hundreds of millions of working-class people must become free from culturally-based, false premises and unscientific thinking. Workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze, and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★★★★★

Trump's Nazism

In Nazi Germany, Hitler et al used a lot of propaganda to persecute Jewish workers and their families, as well as all the people who did not adhere to their racist and fascist ideology. Eventually the Nazis killed tens of millions in Europe and the Soviet Union.

We are still living with this ideology of hatred, persecution and fear. While racist immigration raids have always been a part of the fabric of the U.S., in the last decade, we have seen an intensification: Barack Obama was responsible for the massive deportation of about 3 million workers and their families. And now we have another surge with the fascist, white supremacist Trump, announcing, then cancelling, only to announce again, deportation raids against migrant workers seeking asylum and a home in the U.S. Besides the raids, Trump has never stopped imprisoning migrants and separating them from their children. They are being held in already-saturated prisons, under subhuman living conditions. Trump then gleefully deports them to their countries of origin, which they left because of the misery and violence of their lives there, caused by corrupt—and U.S.-supported—governments, and by climate change, which leaves them unable to support their families.

We must prepare for what lies ahead, and look for ways to make a massive, militant struggle against the persecution of our immigrant brothers and sisters.

The Progressive Labor Party has in its hands the opportunity to build class consciousness in the working class, and to expand our forces massively as the communists did during the period of struggle against fascism and Nazism during World War II, that allowed the Soviet Union to defeat the Nazis.

We have to work hard in mass organizations, in schools, factories, universities, with soldiers, etc. and in every corner of the world where we can do our work. We must be present in every struggle, in every battle of the working class. Our task as communists is to stop the advance of fascism in the world and fight for communism.

We are at a very difficult juncture, but the example of the communist militants during the period of fascism and German Nazism inspire us to fight.

★★★★★

Study group plans fightback against attacks on immigrants

In our study group with our friends in a community organization, the leader of our PLP club and another comrade exposed the fascist nature of this system that threatens the security of the entire working class, especially our immigrant brothers and sisters who are being persecuted and imprisoned under terrible conditions, only to be deported later. This includes separating families and putting children in cages, typical of a Nazi-style system.

We had a discussion about how we can fight back in this difficult period against the persecution of our class brothers and sisters. We made some plans, including organizing a protest in support of immigration, for example, in front of the mayor's office to call attention to the fact that immigrants should be protected and not deported.

We also agreed to organize a workshop on the subject that would reach out to some of the committees of this organization. We also agreed to investigate working with a local Sanctuary group.

It is our duty as members of PLP to give leadership to the working class and grow for the bright communist future that will conquer the inhumanity of the capitalist system and change it forever!

★★★★★

Shantel: Black leadership key to revolution

Continued from page 3

a Black man, are closer to what it is going to take to end racist cop murder than any election could ever be.

This misleaders' strategy of elections will only get more intense as we approach the 2020 election. But just like liberals want us to live with racist cop murder, they will hide their march to World War III behind the cover of being anti-Trump.

These families have suffered a loss the rest of us can't imagine. We need to trust their leadership to continue the struggle through the emotional ups and downs of life without their loved ones, not the misleadership of those who point us to elections as an answer. It's going to take a revolution and a communist world for us to have the society that will deliver on the promise of making racist cop murder a thing of the past.

Another speaker called for multiracial unity and a rejection of the kind of identity politics that would make Shantel's murder a 'Black issue' or a 'women's issue.' Her call for working class solidarity was loud and clear.

When mis-leader Jumaane spoke there was little left for him to say. He said that it is true he could never deliver on a promise that any racist cop murder would be the last. That it was true that the most important leaders are un-elected, even that capitalism was no good and that he hoped to be 'with us' in a revolution, but that for now we had to use the tools of the system, like we use money every day, and vote.

This is why liberal politicians are the most dangerous: because they will say whatever it takes – including that they want a revolution – to get us to live with capitalism's inevitable and necessary attacks on our class. This is how we must understand Sanders' call for a 'political revolution' and who ever else emerges as the anti-Trump in 2020 – they want us to live with what is killing us, capitalism. We will have to kill their influence over the workers in order to kill capitalism.

For a short time on the seventh anniversary of Shantel's death, on one street corner in Flatbush, in the face of a disproportionate police presence, the multi-racial, intergenerational working class, with bold leadership from Black workers and communists, achieved the kind of political victory that will bring us closer to the classless society that will not only forever abolish racist cop murder, but also the very concept of race. ✪

The $4.6 trillion Social Security swindle to pay for imperialist wars

The bosses' media is filled with cries of a "Social Security (SS) crisis," screaming that SS will "run out of funds" unless taxes are increased and the retirement age is raised. But this is not a crisis of SS. It's a crisis of U.S. capitalism.

Until 1968, the bosses' law mandated that all payments into the SS Trust Fund be used only for retirees' pensions. But that year the Johnson administration broke that law by "folding" the surplus revenue in the S.S Trust Fund into what the bosses called the "Unified Federal Budget"(UFB). Why? Because the cost of their imperialist war in Vietnam was creating a huge deficit. But now, by including those billions and trillions of surpluses from the S.S Trust Fund into the UFB, they could steal those surpluses and use them to reduce the Federal deficit and pay for the cost of that war and all the imperialist wars to follow: Grenada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Gulf War I, Iraq and the longest one of all: Afghanistan — 18 years and counting.

Workers pay a SS tax rate at 7.65 percent (including Medicare) and the employer pays an equal amount. But the employers' amount comes from the workers' labor so, in effect, 15.30 percent is being paid by workers to build the SS Trust Fund, ostensibly to cover workers' retirement and Medicare.

The Federal government is obligated to pay back the SS surpluses robbed from the SS Fund — in the form of Treasury bonds — a robbery which by 2015 left the SS Fund $4.6 trillion short. This leads to their lie that "Social Security is endangered." But in actuality — as noted in the NY Times (1/21/90) — the government is using the $4.6 trillion of SS surpluses it robbed "to pay for everything from jet fighters to thumb tacks."

For instance, this addition of the SS surpluses to the UFB made the 1998 "budget surplus…a mirage….about which both the President [Clinton] and the Republicans crowed incessantly." It "was due to a big surplus in Social Security….The rest of the budget showed a deficit of almost $30 billion. Most of the Social Security surplus, which supposedly goes into the Social Security Trust Fund, was spent on other programs" (NY Times, 11/9/1990). Thus, with a $100 billion addition from a SS surplus, this sleight-of-hand turns an actual $30 billion federal deficit into a $70 billion federal budget "surplus."

The rulers' crocodile tears about "saving Social Security" is utter bullshit. The Carter, Johnson, Clinton, and Obama Democrats along with the Reagan, Bushes, and Trump Republicans have all, been using the working class's pension money to prop up U.S. capitalism, cutting taxes on the rich while paying for the rulers' imperialist wars.

The deficit crisis is part of the general crisis of capitalism. It will always try to solve that crisis on the backs of the workers who produce all the value in society. Such "solutions" will continue until the working class, led by its revolutionary party, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) rises up to destroy the bosses' state power and establishes a society in which retired workers will be provided for by the social value produced by our entire class. Profits, bosses, and imperialist wars will not be part of that picture.✪

The bosses shift the tax burden

In the 1980s, the Reagan Administration, with the help of the Democrats, cut income tax rates for the rich from 70 percent down to 28 percent. Corporate income taxes fell by 23 percent. Meanwhile, it raised the Social Security tax on workers' wages. Thus, the New York Times reported (1/21/90) that, "The burden of taxation was shifted from the income tax to the Social Security tax….[75 percent] of all Americans now pay more in Social Security taxes than they do in income taxes." Thus, "the expenses of government are financed more by a tax on the poor and the 'middle' class and less by a tax on the wealthy."

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. racism inspired Nazi Germany, Hitler inspired Trump

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that may be of use for our readers.
NYT=New York Times
GW= Guardian Weekly

The New Yorker, 4/30— An eerie continuity became visible in the post [World War II] years as German scientists were imported to America and began working for their former enemies; the resulting technologies of mass destruction exceeded Hitler's darkest imaginings.

The Nazis idolized many aspects of American society….In 1928, Hitler remarked, approvingly, that… America had "gunned down the millions of [Native Americans] to a few hundred thousand… James Whitman's "Hitler's America Model: The U.S. and the Making of Nazi Race Law…methodically explores how the Nazis took inspiration from American racism…In "Mein Kampf," Hitler praises America as the one state that has…a primarily racial conception…by "excluding certain races from naturalization…"

…"Concentration camps were not invented in Germany," Hitler said in 1941." It is the British who are their inventers, …to gradually break the backs of other nations. As for Hitler and America, the issue goes beyond Henry Ford and Charles Lindbergh….A comparative analysis of American and Nazi race law…describes the impact of the American eugenics movement on Nazi thinking… The Nazis were not wrong to cite American precedents. Enslavement of African-Americans was written into the U.S. Constitution. Thomas Jefferson spoke of the need to "eliminate" or "extirpate" Native Americans….General Philip Sheridan spoke of "annihilation, obliteration and complete destruction….Between 1500 and 1900 the Native population of U.S. territories dropped from many millions to around 200,000.

…Jim Crow laws in the American South served as a precedent….Hitler's regime expressed admiration for American race law…California's sterilization program directly inspired the Nazi sterilization law of 1934….There are…similarities between American and German technologies of death…. Zyklon-B was licensed to American Cyanamid by the German company I. G. Farben [and] was used [against] immigrants as they crossed the border into El Paso….[and] supplied a modified version of Zyklon-B to Auschwitz….

When Hitler praised American restrictions on naturalization, he had in mind the [U.S.] Immigration Act of 1924….For Nazi observers, this was evidence that America was evolving in the right direction….The Immigration Act, too, played a facilitating role in the Holocaust….prevent[ing] thousands of Jews, including Anne Frank and her family, from reaching America.

These chilling points…tell us rather more about modern America…

72 Philly cops spread racist rants on-line

NYT, 6/21 — In Philadelphia…72 police officers….[in] public posts, compiled from accounts believed to belong to current or former officers in eight departments, included racist, misogynist and Islamophobic memes and comments, as well as celebration of officers who use excessive force, included messages like "It's a good day for a chokehold."

'Sick and tired' of U.S. military action worldwide

NYT, 6/18, letter — Bret Stephens writes that an appropriate set of consequences is called for [against Iran]….Who appointed 'us' regional constable? I'm nearly 60, and 'we' have been involved in military action somewhere in the world for nearly my entire life, and I'm sick and tired of it.

Sick and tired of the current president popping off about annihilating…whole countries. Sick and tired of the money wasted on military spending, higher than that of other major countries combined. Sick and tired of the bellicose ranting from politicians….We' instigated the problem over 60 years ago by helping to overthrow a democratically elected government and putting the Shah in power. 'We' blame other countries for meddling? 'We' ourselves meddle often….'We' are part of the problem. --- Mike Aguilar, Costa Mesa, Calif.

Cops terrorize family after 4-year-old tot leaves store with doll

NYT, 6/17 — Phoenix…police…responding to a report of shoplifting had drawn their weapons, shouted expletives and threatened to shoot a man in the face in front of his children….

Dravon Ames and Iesha Harper…said officers had violated their civil rights and engaged in brutality during the episode….

Two videos…show officers yelling. Shouting expletives, they tell Mr. Ames to get his hands up. One can be heard saying that he's going to "put a cap in Mr. Ames's head." As Mr. Ames exits the car, an officer presses him against the ground and handcuffs him, then pushes him against a police vehicle.

The footage shows another officer pointing his firearm toward the car as the couple's 4-year-old daughter exits the car…followed by Ms. Harper, who is carrying her 1-year-old daughter in one arm. An officer yells at her to put the child on the ground and then grabs her arm….

…The couple had not realized…that their 4-year-old daughter had walked out of the store with a doll….

A second officer pointed a gun at Ms. Harper… who was pregnant….The officer walked around the car with his gun drawn and dragged Ms. Harper and her daughter out by the neck.

Long live communist internationalism

While the capitalists created borders (see page 2), Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has always organized solidarity across them, in defiance of them, and will one day abolish them once and for all. Here, we look at the Party's championing of internationalism. Our 54-year-long fight against these deadly borders contains the seeds of a communist alternative worthy of our working-class sisters and brothers.

Communist internationalism

PLP has advanced the tradition of communist internationalism that began with the First International and the Paris Commune of 1871. We have carried the torch of internationalism to its logical and necessary conclusion: one world, one class, one Party fighting directly for communism. No retreats along nationalist lines!

PLP is an international communist party because the working class is one class everywhere, with a universal class interest. Since workers produce everything of value, we can collectively determine how to share it according to need. We don't need bosses, a class that steals most of that value through wage slavery. We stand for the abolition of capitalism; we fight to eliminate racism, sexism, and nationalism.

Our internationalism means working-class unity that follows the slogan, "Smash All Borders!"

It means a united working class led by one mass, international Party containing hundreds of millions of communist workers. We reject the call by various national "communist" parties for nationalist "roads to socialism." This formulation is drawn from capitalist-created countries that divide the international working class and negate its universal class character.

Unlike the old communist movement, PLP does not separate along nationalist lines. Though our circumstances and tactics may differ in the U.S. and East Africa, our political line for communist revolution is the same everywhere. We oppose nationalism, which leads to workers uniting behind "their" capitalist bosses and fighting "foreign" or immigrant workers. The concept of two opposing, worldwide classes — workers against bosses — is fundamental to destroying capitalism and establishing communism.

PLP grows worldwide

The following are just some of the struggles that reflect the Party's internationalist practice:

- In 1964, in solidarity with the workers and youth of Vietnam, PLP formed the May 2nd Movement to oppose the U.S. imperialist invasion of Vietnam. We organized the first mass demonstration against the war under the slogan, "U.S. Imperialism Get Out of Vietnam!" This slogan eventually was adopted by millions, challenging the calls by liberals and phony leftists to "Stop the Bombing" and "Negotiate," neither of which indicted U.S. imperialism (see CHALLENGE, 8/12/15).
- In the late 1960s and early '70s, PL'ers joined the military to win soldiers to refuse to kill their sisters and brothers in Vietnam and instead to turn the guns against the U.S. ruling class.
- During the 1984-85 British miners' strike, PLP organized support campaigns, bringing miners to the U.S. to speak at rallies and on campuses. They exposed the brutal policies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who ordered police attacks on strikers and laid off tens of thousands.
- In El Salvador, PLP recruited from among former fighters for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, after the FMLN became an electoral party that betrayed the revolution.
- In Palestine-Israel, PLP joined mass demonstrations against Israeli rulers' demolition of Palestinian villages. We fought sub-standard wages enforced by slave traders and exposed the rulers' racism perpetrated against immigrants from Africa.
- In Mexico, PLP members in the teachers' union fought government attacks to break their strikes and cripple the schools through privatization.
- In East Africa, PLP is organizing among students and teachers and waging anti-sexist struggles.
- In Colombia, PLP mobilized striking workers, from refrigerator factories to beer factories. PLP's revolutionary line was so threatening to revisionists [fake leftists] and bosses alike that death threats to our comrades were common.
- In Haiti, we grew from a club of trade unionists and students to one embedding itself into the agricultural working class. PLP fought against MINUSTAH, the UN occupation force that triggered the spread of cholera, as well as racist deportations and inadequate sewage and plumbing systems.
- In Pakistan, PL'ers organized aid for workers devastated by an earthquake, while the government abandoned the victims. We are fighting to unite workers to challenge the bosses' attacks, especially on super-exploited women working in subhuman conditions and earning little or no pay.
- With the advent of U.S. imperialist assaults on the working class in Afghanistan and Iraq, PL launched campaigns attacking the murders of millions by U.S. rulers, from George H.W. Bush to Bill Clinton to George W. Bush to Barack Obama to Donald Trump. Pickets were organized at embassies in U.S. cities. PL'ers enlisted in the military to spread the Party's ideas among soldiers in Iraq and to oppose attacks on working-class families there.

Spreading solidarity and ideology

PLP has organized international solidarity for local struggles. Comrades in Haiti wrote letters of solidarity to City University of New York students during the campaign to oust war criminal David Petraeus from campus. In Brooklyn, PLP rallied in immigrant neighborhoods in response to racist deportations in the Dominican Republic. Word of PLP's actions and communist ideology have spread across the world, both through immigrant workers from Latin America and through CHALLENGE on the internet.

Today, CHALLENGE is printed in English, Spanish, French, Creole, Arabic, Hebrew, Dari, Urdu, and more.

One class, one fight for communism

The world we fight for is one where workers' power will reign supreme. A communist world will wipe out borders created by the bosses to reap more profits from exploiting those they call "foreigners." It will eradicate imperialist wars, which the rulers launch to grab resources and cheap labor. In a communist world, there will be no foreigners, no "illegal" migrants, no refugees from war or poverty.

While the reformists continue to fragment themselves with the identity politics of race, gender, sexuality, or national loyalties, PLP unites ALL workers, based on class-consciousness. Over the last 54 years, our staunch internationalism made has helped us grow from an organization with a handful of workers in New York to a Party that spans 27 countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe. That is no small victory! Forward to another 50 years of communist organizing that puts the international working class above the individual.

Workers in Senegal have the same interest as workers in China or Chile or the U.S.: a society that will meet their class's needs. An egalitarian, communist world. We invite all workers to join this struggle—for yourselves, for your children and for future generations.

We have a Party to organize and a world to win!✪

SUBSCRIBE or RENEW!

All the communist politics, news, and struggle from around the world!

one-year subscription: $20 individual $45 for institution

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Make check or money order to:
Challenge Periodicals,
PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP